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WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2020

\$3

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather 43 | 30



Pulse
of Wabash

Seeking sports stringers

Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Wabash Marketplace announces Downtown Bucks giveaway

The popular "Stamping Map" during Downtown Holiday Night to Remember is being replaced with a new program called "Shop Local to Win." Instead of entries being accepted only on one night, the program will last one month. Wabash Marketplace is giving away \$1,000 over four weeks. Winners will be announced Mondays,

See PULSE, page A7

Inside

Classified, A6 Sports, A8
Comics, A4 Viewpoint, A5
Crossword, A4 Weather, A2
Obituaries, A3



Increased local restrictions implemented as COVID-19 spread remains very high

ISDH reports 22nd and 23rd Wabash County deaths

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Saturday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) reported the 22nd COVID-19 death in Wabash

County. And on Tuesday, the ISDH reported the 23rd local COVID-19 death.

Over the past few days, Wabash County's positivity ratings have been among the highest in the state. This is reflected in the ISDH's rating Wednesday, Nov. 25 of local spread as red, the highest level, up from orange, the second-highest.

This community spread

has caused several local restrictions to be implemented. Last month, Dr. David Roe, Wabash County health officer, said he and fellow health directors in the surrounding nine counties had agreed upon new restrictions.

And now, because the local spread has moved to the red designation, Wabash County must limit social gatherings, both indoor and outdoor, to

25 people maximum. Events expecting more than 50 must submit a safety plan to the local health department for approval.

On Friday, Mayor Scott Long said he was very concerned with the high local positivity rate and was continuing the closure of Wabash City Hall. Long said employees who can work remotely will do so.

"City Hall will remain closed to the public indefinitely," said Long.

Long said remote work from home orders for city employees were being extended until Monday, Dec. 14.

Long said a decision on any further remote work from home will be made on Friday, Dec. 11 "depending

See DEATHS, page A7



Peg Herendeen shows off her baskets for sale Tuesday.

Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

'Market @ the Museum' opens

Local artisans present their wares for sale ahead of the holidays at the NMCH

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Tuesday, the North Manchester Center for History (NMCH) opened its final event of the year, "Market @ the Museum," during which area artisans are selling their wares through Saturday, Dec. 12 at 122 E. Main St., North Manchester.

Laura Rager, director, said she was worried about attendance being light, but those fears were soon put to rest as they started the day.

"We had two cars waiting at the doors this morning when we opened at 10," said Rager. "I really thought this being a Tuesday, this would kind of a soft opening. That was fun."



Peg Herendeen said she had been making and selling baskets at various locations for around 30 years.

Rager said they have asked each of the artists to pick a day to assist shoppers who make their way from one booth to the next.

"We do have staff here all the time, but with everything being so dispersed

See MARKET, page A7

Meet the five candidates interviewing for the two open WCS board seats

Each will get 20 minutes to answer questions from the Wabash City Council

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

This week, the Wabash City Council will be in the unique position of interviewing five candidates for two open seats on the Wabash City Schools (WCS) board.

At the Monday, Nov. 23 Wabash City Council meeting, Mitch Figert, District 1 councilman, said there would be 20 minutes allotted for council members to question each of the prospective WCS board members.

Also on Tuesday, Nov. 24, Bev Vanderpool, assistant to Mayor Scott Long, said the interviews had been scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3 on Zoom.

The schedule will be:
■ 5:30 to 5:40 p.m.: Council prep time

■ 5:40 to 6 p.m.: Richard (Dick) Brewer
■ 6 to 6:20 p.m.: Jason Fry
■ 6:20 to 6:40 p.m.: Rodney Kelsheimer
■ 6:40 to 7 p.m.: Clint Kugler
■ 7 to 7:20 p.m.: Corey Phillip
■ 7:20 to 7:30 p.m.: Final discussion
The Zoom Meeting ID will be 816 3694 1581 and the passcode will be 662629.

See CANDIDATES, page A2

Local, state officials look back at election challenges

Virus caused voting centers to move away from long-term care facilities

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Tuesday, Lori Draper, Wabash County clerk, said her office was busy taking stock of their successes and challenges during this year's general election.

Changing locations during a high-turnout election

Unlike previous elections, long-term care facilities were not able to be used as voting centers due to safety concerns over COVID-19.

Draper said these changes in locations and times, both for Election Day and in-person early voting, were challenging.

"I feel the change of voting centers worked well," said Draper. "The greatest issue I had was getting the word out to the voters about the changes. They were used to voting at certain locations on certain days and it has been difficult this year because we had to change on a federal election year when a lot more voters vote."

Indeed, turnout both locally and statewide was high this year. Last month, Draper said in Wabash County, voter turnout was 69.2 percent. And on Nov. 24, Secretary of State Connie Lawson announced that 65 percent or 3,068,542 of Indiana's 4.7 million registered voters cast a vote in the Nov. 3 General Election. In 2016 and 2012, voter turnout was at 58 percent. In 2008, 62 percent of registered Hoosiers voted in the General Election. This was a record-setting year, with 3,068,578 Hoosiers casting a ballot, more than in 2008, 2012 or 2016.

Election security now and in the future

In contrast to statements made to contrary by

See ELECTION, page A7

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Gov. Holcomb ends quarantine period after COVID-19 exposure

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana’s governor ended a quarantine on Tuesday that started two weeks ago after several members of his security detail were confirmed infected with the coronavirus. Gov. Eric Holcomb and first lady Janet Holcomb tested negative for COVID-19

on Nov. 20 and the governor has not experienced any symptoms of the respiratory disease, according to Rachel Hoffmeyer, the governor’s press secretary. The governor has resumed his normal schedule. Holcomb, 52, tested negative for COVID-19 in





mid-October after State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box announced she and some family members were infected. Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett and his wife are scheduled to remain in quarantine until Friday after having close contact with an infected person.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Wednesday Sunny 41 / 25	 Thursday Mostly Cloudy 43 / 30	 Friday Mostly Cloudy 42 / 29	 Saturday Partly Cloudy 43 / 30	 Sunday Mostly Cloudy 41 / 27
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:19 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:47 a.m.

 Last 12/7	 New 12/14	 First 12/21	 Full 12/29
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see sunny skies, high temperature of 42°, humidity of 48%. West southwest wind 7 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight, overnight low of 25°. South southwest wind 5 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 22°. Thursday, skies will be mostly cloudy, high of 43°, humidity of 56%.

Farmer sentiment in United States reaches record high

By **ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI**
Chronicle-Tribune Editor

After six months of below-average commodity prices, a steady rebound in the price of soybeans and corn helped fuel a rally in farmer’s outlook across the agriculture industry. The Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer reached a record-high point in its most recent report, which gauges farmer sentiment in a national survey. The analysis of October’s data found that the recent rise in prices, combined with government program payments stemming from the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, were the primary drivers of increased optimism, according to Purdue University researchers. Purdue Extension Educator Ed Farris said these reports of improved feelings regarding current and future expectations holds true for farmers in the north-central Indiana region. Farris said a good harvest season and better-than-expected yields contributed to the local optimism. “There were some really challenging times in ag this past year, so anything that can help stability – like these increased prices for corn and soybeans – is a benefit.”

Earlier this year, corn prices dropped due to decreased demand for ethanol during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Slaughterhouses and milk processing plants closed down, and some farmers in the surrounding area were forced to dump milk. “We have a mixture of producers in the area, so you do think of them when you think about the COVID-19 situation that we’ve gone through,” Farris said. “It’s just a very difficult year for producers in agriculture.” The second-highest barometer reading on record was recorded before the pandemic hit, but the indices dropped sharply once lockdowns went into place. “Since bottoming out this summer, the ag economy has rebounded sharply, and the dramatic improvement in sentiment reflects the turnaround in the farm income picture,” James Mintert, the barometer’s principal investigator and director of Purdue University’s Center for Commercial Agriculture, said, according to a Purdue University press release. Minert’s comments relate to the steady rise in commodity prices that began in late summer and early fall. The prices have continued to rise even though corn yields are ex-

pected to break records this year nationally and the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts country-wide soybean yields to be fourth highest on record. “Overall there were better yields than what farmers expected in most areas, but again there are definitely places where we saw some lower yields for both corn and soybeans,” Farris said regarding conditions in northern Indiana, where some farmers experienced isolated dry spells. “Harvest progress is going along great though.” The continued dry conditions have helped with harvest, Farris says, since too much rain can stop farmers from getting into their fields. However, the heavy and often sporadic rains in the north-central parts of Indiana caused some local farmers to have reduced pollination for corn crops. Spotty reports of dry spells in the area during active growing days lowered crop conditions and yields north of Indiana, according to USDA reports, but areas in southern Indiana saw better harvest quality. “In some areas of the state, they had some of the best yields they’ve ever had or close to it. I won’t say that in this area, some were better than average but there was some more variability,” Farris said.

Purdue Extension Educator Geoffrey Schortgen, who covers Wabash County, also reported irregular rain patterns for the Wabash River Valley region, but he said the dryer-than-normal conditions allowed the crops to dry out more than last year. He said some of the corn and soybean crops had less-than-desired levels of moisture at harvest, according to reports from a grain elevator in Urbana, but overall he said harvest went well. “We definitely had spotty rain too, so there were some fields that did great, there were some fields that didn’t do so great,” Schortgen said. “All in all considering what rains we did get or lack thereof in August, it did turn out just about as good as it could have for how dry it was later in the season.” With record-breaking rainfall totals during the first half of 2019, and extreme swings in weather during both planting and harvesting seasons, according to National Weather Service of Northern Indiana reports, Farris said farmers are learning to deal with erratic weather. “We have definitely noticed some extremes in weather conditions and that does have farmers taking notice,” he said. “That is why crop insurance is so important in today’s world if you are growing corn and

soybeans. Crop insurance does help to ensure that they are protected.” The Trump administration authorized two federal assistance programs this year to offset losses incurred by the pandemic and decreased commodity markets caused by the ongoing trade war with China. Those payments factored into the current condition optimism, according to Purdue, and Farris said the late rebound in prices puts Hoosier farmers in a better position than they were expecting earlier this year when outlook was more pessimistic. “Now they are able to at least maybe break even instead of going in the hole because of these better prices,” Farris said. With better profit margins, Farris said farmers are watching out for possible higher cash rental contracts in the future, but he said overall Hoosier farmers are looking forward to next year while remaining cautious. “There is a little bit more optimism when thinking ahead about local agriculture for growing corn and soybeans for next year, but we saw some pretty low profits for the livestock industry,” Farris said. Andrew Maciejewski, Chronicle-Tribune editor, may be reached by email at news@wabashplaindealer.com.

CANDIDATES

From page A1

Unlike MSD and Manchester Community Schools, WCS board members are appointed instead of being elected. Figert said the Wabash City Council appoints the five board members to the WCS board. Figert said they are one of the few school boards in the state of Indiana that is appointed, not elected. The chosen WCS appointees will begin service on Jan. 1, 2021 and serve for four years. In response to a series of Plain Dealer requests, each of the candidates explained a bit about their background, qualifications and why they’re interested in the positions. **Richard (Dick) Brewer** Richard (Dick) Brewer said he’s been “dealing with kids for almost 40 years.” Brewer said he was a scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America in the 1970s, led Sunday school classes for children from third grade through high school, and was on the board and was later president of the Life Center. Also, Brewer said he started a 4-H Club some 20 years ago. “Since then I have retired from it,” said Brewer. Brewer said he was also a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) worked for a decade before retiring from that, as well. “(I) had to resign from it a couple

of years ago to stay home help my wife,” said Brewer. Brewer said that even though he is 72 years old, he feels he has “several years left in me that I can be of help to the educational system here in Wabash County.”

Jason Fry

Jason Fry is a probation officer with Wabash County Court Services and has over a decade of experience working in the human services field. Fry holds a master’s degree in human services from Liberty University and an undergraduate degree from Indiana Wesleyan University. Fry has been married to Stacey, a third grade teacher at O.J. Neighbours Elementary School, for nearly 12 years and has lived in the Wabash County community for 14 years. He has two children who both attend OJ Neighbours and are a part of the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program. “For the past few years I have felt drawn to find a way in which I can engage in the Wabash community,” said Fry. “After a change in employment that has allowed for an increased margin of time to commit, I have been awaiting an opportunity to invest myself in something that can have a long-lasting impact in our community.” Fry said education has always been “an incredible resource for me and something I have sought to encourage others I have worked with to invest in for themselves.” “I believe that, if given the oppor-

tunity, being a part of the (WCS) board I would be able to align with others with a focused mission to see our community’s school empower our children and invest in their futures,” said Fry.

Rod Kelsheimer

Rod Kelsheimer has been married to his wife, Char, for 26 years. The couple has four sons: Kyle, 24, Kaleb, 21, Kallen, 19, and Kaden, 7. Kelsheimer is a 1991 graduate of Wabash High School and graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Ball State University. He is currently the manager of inside sales for The Ford Meter Box Company where he has worked for 26 years. He is currently serving his first term on the WCS board. Kelsheimer said he has enjoyed serving on the board for the last three years. “I am very thankful for the opportunity to do so,” he said. “I believe a school system should provide a quality education and work closely with the local business community to ensure students are aware of the opportunities offered locally. I feel this is a strength of (WCS) and hope to serve another term so we may work to expand upon this.”



KELSHEIMER

Clint Kugler

Clint Kugler has been a Wabash County resident since 2011. Kugler currently serves as the vice president of statewide engagement and advocacy for the Indiana Youth Institute (IYI). Kugler said his professional focus includes “engaging

and empowering IYI’s partners and peers with resources, services and connections to champion kids and strengthen communities.” Before joining IYI in 2018, Kugler worked for 20 years for the YMCA, most recently serving as the Wabash County YMCA CEO. Kugler said throughout his career, he has worked “collaboratively with schools and local organizations to address pressing community issues such as closing achievement gaps and increasing student access to education assets beyond high school.” Kugler holds a master’s degree in human service in organizational leadership and management from Springfield College and a bachelor’s degree from Olivet Nazarene University. He and his wife, Kindi, have four children who attend or have graduated from WCS. Kugler said Wabash is “an exceptional community,” and that WCS “is a critical piece of shaping our city’s future.” “One of my primary life passions is helping to unlock the potential of kids,” said Kugler. “I have lived that out through my career with the YMCA and my current role at the (IYI).” Kugler said while his four children have attended WCS for years, he could not previously pursue this opportunity “because our residence was not within the district limits.” “I am interested in investing my experience, education, and energy as a school board member to



KUGLER

fulfill the (WCS) mission,” said Kugler.

Corey Phillippy

Corey Phillippy is a lifelong resident of Wabash who attended Southwood Elementary and Southwood High School before studying criminal justice at Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW). In 2018, Phillippy moved back to Wabash and joined the Wabash County Sheriff’s Department as a deputy. He and his wife have three children. Phillippy said WCS is important to him and his family “for many reasons.” His wife is a nurse at L.H. Carpenter Early Learning Center, his mother is the assistant principal at O.J. Neighbours Elementary School and two of his children are now students in the WCS system. Phillippy said he has previously served as a substitute teacher within the WCS district for the past few years and coached Unified Fitness Flag Football this past fall. “I believe WCS not only provides a higher level of academic opportunities within this area but also operates by a mission of providing every student access to an education that meets individual needs and possibilities to grow in a variety of extra-curricular activities which appeal to many,” said Phillippy. “I believe in the quality of services WCS offers and would like to be a part of the process of ensuring continued growth for our youth and stability for our educators and staff.”



PHILLIPPY

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Indiana’s virus deaths nearly double in November

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The number of COVID-19 deaths in Indiana (1,416 people) nearly doubled in November, and the state on Tuesday reported that coronavirus-related hospitalizations remain at their highest point during the pandemic. Gov. Eric Holcomb on Tuesday also signed an extension of the state’s public health emergency through Dec. 31, a step under which he has issued the statewide mask order and limits on crowd sizes. Officials in a northern Indiana county hit by a surge in cases approved allowing fines against businesses for violating virus precaution measures over the objections of a Republican state senator. The Indiana State Department of Health added 142 deaths to the statewide toll with Tuesday’s daily update.



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Obituaries

Sheila Marie (Garner) Simons

Jan. 7, 1943 – Nov. 27, 2020

Sheila Marie (Garner) Simons was born at home on Jan. 7, 1943 to parents, Katherine Louise McNeely and Ernest True Garner. Her fondest childhood memories were of the “40-acre farm” in Roann and of her grandmother Mary Etta (Tomlinson) Colbert of Wabash. Sheila attended the Smith Family reunion in Wabash for decades, visiting her uncles, cousins and friends. She never lost her love of country life and gardening.

Sheila also loved baking and cooking. She learned to make her daddy’s favorite cherry pie and won a blue ribbon at the county fair before she was twelve years old. She was a member of the Community of Christ church and believed love was most important part of life. She was a lifelong advocate for racial equality, LGBTQ+ inclusion and dignity for all people.

Sheila graduated from Northeast High School in St. Petersburg, Florida in the class of 1961. She competed as a championship diver, and continued to swim for the next 40 years. She earned a professional certificate as a radiologist and worked at hospitals in Florida, Hawaii, and New Jersey throughout her career. After her children were grown, she spent years as a live-in caregiver.

In 1972, she wed Walter Pickering Simons. They raised two daughters in Dornsife, Pennsylvania and were married for 27 years. She loved being a mother and promoted education. Many other young people also found a meal and a “momma” at her house. She also loved her dogs, and was never without a canine companion. Many wagging tails will greet her again at heaven’s door.

Sheila also had a lifelong love of music and theatre. She performed with the Susquehanna Valley Players and won a Magnolia Award



for the best debut performance of the 2003-04 season at Corinth Theatre Arts, in Corinth MS, as Ethel Banks in Neil Simon’s comedy Barefoot in the Park. She enjoyed travel, and never stopped seeking new experiences and enjoying performances from Broadway to Las Vegas.

Sheila passed from this world on Nov. 27, 2020, while a resident of the Markle Health and Rehabilitation Center. She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents, uncles Glenn McNeely and Sammie Colbert, her brother, Earnie Garner of Fort Collins, CO, niece, Dawn Rutledge, great-nephew Jon Batura, and her infant son, Thomas Walter Simons. She will be missed by her children, Mary Katherine “Katie” Davis (Andrew) of Chickasha, OK; April Louise Whistler (Jason) of Watson town, PA; sisters Carolyn Dillon, Marilyn Garner, and Dr. Vikki French of Colorado, many nieces and nephews, and one grandson, Luke Andrew Davis.

There will be no public memorial service. In lieu of flowers, please make a gift to the Sheila Simons Theatre Scholarship at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, c/o USAO Foundation, 1727 West Alabama Avenue, Chickasha, OK, 73018.

Online condolences: dealricefuneralhomes.com

Richard Dean Kitt

Richard Dean Kitt, 92, of Fort Myers, Florida, and recently Kokomo, Indiana, passed away at Howard Community Regional Hospital in Kokomo on Saturday morning, Nov. 28, 2020.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020 at McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue,

Wabash, Indiana 46992. Pastor Brad Wright will be the officiant.

Visitation for family and friends will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020, at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

Kathy Sipe

Sept. 23, 1955 – Nov. 27, 2020

Kathy Sipe, 65, North Manchester, died Nov. 27, 2020. Kathy was born Sept. 23, 1955 in Portland, Indiana.

Kathy Sipe is survived by her husband, Burt; daughters, Andrea (Rick) Espeset and Jenny (Brandon) Baker; brothers, John (Diane) and Steve (Jaye) Coldren; grandchildren, Addi, Elli, and Briggs Baker and Ethan,

McKelvey, and Finley Espe-set.

Calling Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 from 2-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 S.R. 114 W., North Manchester. Funeral services Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. with calling beginning at 1:00 p.m. at McKee Mortuary.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

Arthur Linden Wilson

Arthur Linden Wilson, 87, LaFontaine, Indiana, passed away Nov. 27, 2020 at Hickory Creek at Huntington, in Huntington, Indiana.

The loving memory of Arthur Linden Wilson will be cherished by his wife, Mary Annette Wilson; son, Kirk Linden Wilson; daughters, Leona Loretta (Robert) Burns, and Sheri Lynn (James) Johnson; brother, Kendall (Phyllis) Wilson;

sisters, Frances (Dick) Bourquin, Jean (Richard) Hilton, and Sharon Harrold; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Art’s life will be held at Marion National Cemetery, 1700 East 38th Street, Marion, Indiana, at a later date.

The family of Arthur Wilson has entrusted McKee Mortuary with arrangements.

Nancy Brewer

Nov. 20, 1942 – Nov. 26, 2020

Nancy Brewer, 78, North Manchester, died Nov. 26, 2020. Nancy was born Nov. 20, 1942 to Clifford E. and Martha I. (Poe) Ross Sr.

Nancy is survived by husband, Don Brewer; sons, Todd (Crystal) and Kevin (Carrie) Brewer; daughters, Debbie (Steve) Dotson and Stephanie (Scott) Martin; brother, Butch Ross; sisters, Barbara (Ned) Schuler, Carolyn Drook, and Bethene

Gill; fourteen grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Calling Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 from 4-8 p.m. at Sweetwater Assembly of God, 2551 S.R. 114, North Manchester. Funeral services Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 at 11 a.m. with calling at 10 a.m. at Sweetwater Assembly of God.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

Tim Evans

March 17, 1947 – Nov. 28, 2020

Tim Evans, 73, Disko, Indiana, died on Nov. 28, 2020. Tim was born on March 17, 1947 in Kokomo, Indiana.

Tim is survived by wife, Phyllis Evans; sons, Mike

(Lupe), Mickey (Dede), and Matt (Lisa) Evans; step-son, Daniel Brubaker Sr.; brother, Neil (Linda) Evans; sisters, Shirley (Roger) Marshall, and Sandra (Dave) Reed;

nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Calling Monday, Nov. 30, 2020 from 2-5 and 6-8 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North

Manchester. Funeral services Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 11 a.m. with calling starting at 10 a.m. at McKee Mortuary.

Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

Honeywell Foundation schedules family-friendly holiday events

Events planned at Charley Creek Gardens, Honeywell House, Clark Gallery, virtually

STAFF REPORT

Amid COVID-19 hindering in-person events indoors for the 2020 holiday season, Honeywell Foundation holiday favorites and new events are scheduled now through Jan. 3, according to Morgan Ellis, public relations and marketing coordinator.

New to the Honeywell Foundation holiday events schedule are Take and Decorate Holiday Cookie Kits, Holiday Take and Bake meal, Comfort and Joy at Home with Jim Brickman, and Virtual Winter Break Bash.

Clark Gallery Cash and Carry Exhibit

The Honeywell Center Clark Gallery’s annual Cash and Carry Exhibit will be hosted in the gallery and online from Friday, Dec. 4 through Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021.

“The Cash and Carry exhibit provides one-of-a-kind art for holiday gifts and more,” said Ellis.

All items will be available for immediate purchase during Box Office Hours of from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The artwork on display and for sale will feature artists including Onica Leverich, Katy Gray, Susan Reynolds, Rhoda Gerig and more. Masks are required upon enter-



Provided photo

Join Jim Brickman for his virtual “Comfort and Joy at Home LIVE!” concert at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20.

ing the Clark Gallery. The Cash and Carry Exhibit is sponsored by Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems. For more information about this exhibit and to view it online, visit HoneywellCenter.org/Cash-and-Carry.

Charley Creek Gardens Holiday Floral Arranging presented by Jennifer Love-George of Love Bug Floral

Gather together at the Charley Creek Gardens for the Honeywell House annual Holiday Floral Arranging class with Jennifer Love-George of Love Bug Floral. Love-George will guide guests in creating a seasonal arrangement during the popular Honeywell House tradition. Holiday Floral

Arranging will take place in the Charley Creek Gardens Education and Resource Center garage at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. The cost is \$25 per person, covering all materials. Masks and reservations are required for this socially distanced event. Charley Creek Gardens is located at 551 N. Miami St. and parking for the Gardens is located at 518 N. Wabash St. For more information about CharleyCreekGardens.org/events.

Charley Creek Gardens Yule Time Stroll

The Charley Creek Gardens will be open for its 11th Annual Yule Time Stroll with casually lighted pathways for guests to enjoy. Every evening from 6 to 9 p.m. Sun-

day, Dec. 13 through Wednesday, Dec. 23, the Gardens will be open for guests to walk through with families, friends and thermoses of hot cocoa. Stroll through the lighted pathways in the Charley Creek Gardens and stop by the Education and Resource Center off of Miami St. for a special holiday treat. Charley Creek Gardens is located at 551 N. Miami St. and parking for the Gardens is located at 518 N. Wabash St. Yule Time Stroll is free and open to the public and is sponsored by Autumn Ridge Rehabilitation Centre and the City of Wabash. For more information about Charley Creek Gardens events, visit CharleyCreekGardens.org/

Honeywell House Take and Decorate Holiday Cookie Kits

New and by popular demand from Mrs. Honeywell’s Tea-To-Go, the Honeywell House is offering Take and Decorate Holiday Cookie Kits complete with 18 sugar cookies, colored frosting, and embellishments. The Take and Decorate Holiday Cookie Kits can be ordered no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15 and can be picked up from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18 at the Honeywell House or from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Honeywell Center. To order a Take and Decorate Holiday Cookie Kit, visit HoneywellHouse.org/cookies.

Honeywell Hospitality Holiday Take and Bake Meal

By popular demand following spring holidays, Honeywell Hospi-

ality is offering a Christmas Take and Bake meal complete with traditional holiday fixings including ham with raisin sauce, dressing, mashed redskin potatoes, charred brussels sprouts with cranberries, bacon, and onions, maple-roasted sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, and sugar cream pie with whipped topping. The Christmas Breakfast Take and Bake option is a pumpkin French toast casserole. The Christmas Take and Bake meal and breakfast casserole can be ordered no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15 and can be picked up from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23 at the Honeywell Center. To order a Christmas Take and Bake meal, visit HoneywellCenter.org/take-and-bake.

Virtual: Comfort and Joy at Home LIVE! with Jim Brickman

Join Jim Brickman for his virtual “Comfort and Joy at Home LIVE!” concert at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. Guests may access the virtual concert via Zoom link emailed directly to the ticket-buyer. Guests are invited to enjoy a one-of-a-kind personal concert experience with Jim Brickman with the support of the Honeywell Center. Ticket prices include \$40, \$75 and \$125 with opportunities for an Interactive Zoom Breakout Room, Meet and Greet, and Christmas gifts delivered to your door. Tickets are available exclusively at JimBrickman.com/Wabash.

For more information, visit HoneywellFoundation.org or call 260-563-1102.

VFW Post No. 286 to host fish dinner Friday

STAFF REPORT

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 has planned a fish dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Dan Ford.

The menu includes

beer-battered fish, baked beans, coleslaw and hush puppies. The cost will be \$9 per person and it will be open to the public. “Current COVID-19 restrictions (will be) observed,” said Ford. Info, call 260-563-2463.

Northeast Indiana to host annual Japan-Northeast Indiana Summit

Event will begin virtually at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8

STAFF REPORT

Grow Wabash County is partnering with the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership and the Japanese American Society of Indiana (JASI) to host the 2020 Japan-Northeast Indiana Summit on Tuesday, Dec. 8, according to Chelsea Boulrisse, project manager for marketing and events.

This summit has become an annual event through the Partnership to lay the foundation and begin to build a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between Japan and Northeast Indiana.

Consul-General of Japan in Chicago Kenichi Okada and Mr. Kiyooki Kiyo Aburaki, managing director for Japan at Bow-erGroupAsia, will join the summit virtually this year to talk about the growing

relationship between Japan and Northeast Indiana and the many factors at play that impact this relationship.

Wabash City Schools Superintendent Jason Calahan will be one of the summit’s featured speakers to speak on the topic of preparing a globalized workforce.

“Wabash City Schools has made great strides in the region, offering an expanded course selection that now includes the Japanese language and student exchange opportunities,” said Boulrisse.

The 2020 Japan-Northeast Indiana Summit will begin virtually at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8. Admission to this summit is free of charge, but registration is required to receive the credentials to access the Zoom session. Registration can be done through the Partnership website at www.neindiana.com/japan-northeast-indiana-summit.

Canada: U.S. border measures to continue

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday the ban on nonessential travel with the United States will not be lifted until COVID-19 is more under control around the world.

Canada and the U.S. have limited border crossings since March, extending the restrictions each month.

“Until the virus is significantly under more control everywhere around the world, we are not going to be releasing the restrictions at the border,” Trudeau told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

About 400,000 people crossed the world’s longest international border each day before the pandemic.

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Trust issues are remnants of past toxic relationships

DEAR ABBY: Marriage is considered to be imperative in my religion and culture. I'm 29 and still not married. I have commitment and trust issues with guys. I have been in only three relationships my entire life.

Dear Abby



Every time things are going well, I tend to self-sabotage and make excuses to push the guy away. I start arguments for no reason or create problems or issues that I fabricate out of thin air. I think it has a lot to do with the fact that my past relationships were toxic and tumultuous. They were cheaters and liars.

I have carried that baggage into my relationship with my new partner by not believing a lot of the things he says. For example, I doubt his feelings for me. When things are going smoothly between us, I always take five or 10 steps back. It isn't fair that I put him through the wringer, but I don't know any other way. How can I get past this continuous issue? – Problem Trusting In California

DEAR PROBLEM TRUSTING: The most effective way to do that would be to talk about this destructive pattern with a licensed mental health adviser. If you do, it may help you rid yourself of the “baggage” you are carrying, understand why you chose the men you did before, and make it easier to evaluate any new relationships that start to develop.

DEAR ABBY: I have known my friend “Matt” for more than 20 years. We’ve been close for most of those years.

Matt is gay, and early in our friendship, we had a mutual friend, “Gary,” who used a gay epithet often, even though he knew Matt is gay. It hurt Matt, but he wasn't comfortable speaking to Gary about it, so I did. Matt not only apologized to Matt but to this day (some 18 years later), I haven't heard Gary say that word in our company.

Recently, Matt has started using the N-word. I have told him that not only is it disgusting and offensive, but I compared it to the situation with Gary. Matt laughed it off and continues to use the word with no regard for me. I have started spending less time with him because of it because I don't want him to think I condone his racist language. Is it time to sever ties with Matt? – Disappointed In Maryland

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: I think so. The next time Matt uses the N-word, make clear to him that if you ever hear it from him again, your friendship will be OVER. And then follow through.

DEAR ABBY: I feel horrible about my “first time.” It was with my boyfriend, and it happened in the back seat of his car. I had always dreamed of my first time being special, but after realizing we didn't have many options, we decided the car was fine. Now I feel ashamed and guilty. Can you advise me? – Not Like I Imagined In Texas

DEAR NOT: I will try. When did your first time happen? Last weekend? Last month? Last year? Whenever it was, it is in the past. Experience teaches us what works for us and what doesn't. Learn from it, but don't preoccupy yourself with regret over something you can't change.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Fundraiser, often

5 Video game acquisitions

10 Large parrots

12 Ms. Ochoa of golf

13—the Hun

14 Husband of Isis

15 Bluebird's residence

16 Talk and talk

18 Long-faced figure

19 Temple snack

25 2000 Olympics site

29 Genetic factor

30 Three-legged frame

32 Salon tint

33 Crunchy snack

34 Houston team

37 Eric Clapton classic

DOWN

1 Airplane boarding site

2 Feigns

3 Cafe au—

4 Belt maker's tool

5— Angeles

6 Eye part

7 Dancer —Ellen

8 Ms. Bagnold

9 Stockholm carrier

10 Adult person

38 Gridiron gains

40 Choose

43 RV haven

44 Easily misled person

48 Defense skill

50 Brought up

52 Bleach

53 The Sunflower State

54 Tool maker

55 Boat-deck wood

11 Long story

12 Waiting room

17 Pumper's pride

19 Traffic circle

20 High standards

21 Utmost degree

22 Circle size

23 Containers

24 Slight indication

26 Wine valley

27 Catch sight of

28 Bellow

31 Pasture

35 Bucket of song

36 Marquee notice

39 Swarthy

40 Island near Kauai

41 Ever so proper

42 So long, in Soho (hyph.)

44 Great dog?

45 Big Dipper bear

46 Summit

47 Koch and Wynn

48 Utility bill abbr.

49 Base of the decimal system

51 Hit the buffet

Answer to Previous Puzzle

BIT	ZAP	BILE
IDS	SELL	MOON
REP	INFO	ONUS
DASHED	DAVIT	
	USA	PICS
YAHTZ	VOTE	
OWN	AJAR	SUMO
WEND	FRED	NOW
	INKY	RIDES
PILE	TOM	
ABOUTS	RIPENS	
MUST	LEAD	KOA
GLEE	ALMS	ERA
RAND	PIP	DAB

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10					11		12		
13							14		
15					16	17		18	
				19			20		
21	22	23	24		25		26	27	28
29							30		31
32							33		
	34				35	36		37	
				38			39		
	40	41	42		43			44	45
48					49		50	51	
52							53		
54								55	

12-2

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

		9		2		6	1
		2	9	6		7	
				7			
	1	7		5	2		4
	5						8
	9		4	1		3	7
				4			
		5		8	1	2	
	2	6		9		8	

12/2

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
6	4	8	9	7	2	3	1	5
3	5	9	1	4	6	8	2	7
1	7	2	8	5	3	4	6	9
9	8	6	3	1	5	2	7	4
2	1	7	6	8	4	9	5	3
4	3	5	7	2	9	1	8	6
7	6	4	2	3	8	5	9	1
8	9	3	5	6	1	7	4	2
5	2	1	4	9	7	6	3	8

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

COSUR

PETOM

FCEETF

NOTBEN

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Print your answer here:

Saturday's

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Are you writing down something I should know?

No. Just jotting down what I told you.

12/2

THE PODIATRIST WAS LOOKING AT THE X-RAY RESULTS AND MAKING SOME ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)
Jumbles: FAULT LOFTY STYLUS IMMUNE
Answer: They thoroughly enjoyed the flavors of their food in a restaurant that was decorated — TASTEFULLY

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

12-2

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www.familycircus.com

“I’ve got a marshmallow iceberg in my chocolate.”

Bil and Jeff KEANE

BEEBLE BAILEY

I THINK MY PLANT IS SICK

ASK ZERO. HE GREW UP ON A FARM. HE'S GOOD WITH PLANTS

12/2

LATER:

I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS THAT GOOD!

BLONDIE

BRRR! I THINK I'D LIKE SOME COMFORT FOOD FOR LUNCH TODAY

HOW ABOUT THE MACARONI AND MASHED POTATO SOUP?

12-2

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF MACARONI AND MASHED POTATO SOUP

ACTUALLY, THERE'S A FUNNY STORY ABOUT HOW I CAME UP WITH THAT ONE

SEE? IT CAN GET PRETTY HECTIC IN THE KITCHEN, AND THERE ISN'T A LOT OF ELBOW ROOM...

12-2

HI & LOIS

MOMMY HAS HER BOOK GROUP.

12-2

I HAVE MY SUNBEAM CIRCLE.

BC

AHH... TODAY'S THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE.

12-2

THAT'S AN ODD-LOOKING CLOUD...

CANNONBALL!

Dist. by Creators

WIZARD OF ID

SNORE SNORE

12-2-20

FLICK SHACK

THAT'S ONE WEEK IN SOLITARY FOR YOU!

AHH... PEACE AND QUIET

DILBERT

DO YOU LIKE MY NEW T-SHIRT? IT'S TWO SIZES TOO SMALL, BUT THAT'S ALL THEY HAD.

DILBERT.COM

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO BUY SHIRTS THAT YOU LIKE THAT ARE ALSO THE RIGHT SIZE?

IN THEORY, YES, BUT I HAVE BEEN BUYING T-SHIRTS FOR YEARS, AND I DON'T RECALL SEEING THAT OPTION.

12-2-20 2020 Scott Adams. Dist. by Andrews McMeel

GARFIELD

I'M THINKING OF CHEATING ON MY DIET

COOL!

WANT TO SPLIT A RAT?

I'M THINKING OF STICKING TO MY DIET

12-2

FORT KNOX

SO YOU PLAN TO MANIPULATE YOUR WAY TO MORE GIFTS?

YES, KURT... YOU SHOULD TRY IT TOO.

12/2

NO WAY! I'D JUST LIKE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH MY MOM.

I'M SORRY.

DON'T BE... I MAPE OTHER PLANS.

TO DO WHAT?

MUG YOU OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE.

PICKLES

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE WAY I DECORATED THE TREE, EARL?

12-20

I USED ALL CAT ORNAMENTS THIS YEAR.

I THINK THAT ONE JUST BLINKED.

MUFFIN! GET OUT OF THAT TREE!

Work is a part of God's plan for our lives

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: I was contemplating an early retirement before COVID-19 hit, but after being home for months I wonder if it is the best thing to do. — E.R.

A: A pilot and his wife had traveled the world and began to think about a retirement haven, and actually bought a cottage in a place they believed they would enjoy for years. The couple put their house up for sale and began the journey into a new way of life.

They lived it up: long walks beside the crashing waves, the easygoing life of a small town, the freedom to set their own schedules and do whatever they wanted. Everything was exactly the way they had always envisioned it. This was living at its best! By the

fifth week, however, unease began to creep over them, and they knew they had made a mistake. Watching the waves crash against the rocks wasn't enough to fill the void left by their former lives 1,200 miles away.

After their few weeks of rest, frequenting all the restaurants, coffee shops, and stores began to lose its charm. “Is this all we’re going to be doing for the next 20 or 30 years?” they asked. “What were we thinking to leave our children and grandchildren?” They were fortunate

that the home they had lived in for 30 years had not yet sold, so they packed their belongings and returned home. The airline executive took on a part-time consulting job with his former company and commented, “I thought I was ready for retirement, but I just didn't think it through.”

Work is a part of God's plan for our lives. The Bible says that whatever we do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). We need to pray about every decision in life because God desires to guide and direct us in all things.

CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“MAPSP'Y YVNA J MAHID JY

MAPJMPS BHYNHWCCHIP. XIP WCJTPS

BXPYI'M JWWSXWSHJMP JIXMAPS'Y

HIUPIMHXIY.” — PMAPC RPSRJI

Previous Solution: “Got no checkbooks ... still I'd like to express my thanks. I oot the sun in the morning and the moon at night.” — Irving Berlin

TODAY'S CLUE: n sjenb9 A

Opinion

SPEAK UP
How to contact
your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://young.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any
Indiana lawmaker,
go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/
legislative/contact/
contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



The Lord is gracious and Merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 145:8

What the U.S. Supreme Court got wrong about COVID-19 restrictions

The unsigned opinion by the nation’s highest court got it wrong, insisting that restrictions placed on religious gatherings imposed by Gov. Cuomo in New York’s COVID-19 hotspots must be nullified, for they violate the First Amendment.

The dissent by the Bronx’s Sonia Sotomayor got it right. The rules, capping gatherings at 10 people or less, are actually more generous for faith-based institutions than for any other type: “New York treats houses of worship far more favorably than

their secular comparators.” How on Earth can that be an offense to the guaranteed freedom to exercise religion? The majority has no answer.

Nor do they have a compelling reply to Chief Justice John Roberts’ dissent, which points out that since churches and synagogues filed their challenges to New York’s rules, the ground shifted. “None of the houses of worship identified in the applications is now subject to any fixed numerical restrictions. ... The Governor might reinstate the restrictions.

But he also might not. And it is a significant matter to override determinations made by public health officials concerning what is necessary for public safety in the midst of a deadly pandemic.”

In other words, there was no need to tie the hands of officials who are seeking to save lives in the midst of a public health crisis.

But what’s done is done. New York is no longer allowed to count to 10 in synagogues and churches. Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Samuel

Alito and Clarence Thomas make five, and that’s enough. In these United States, there’s no higher authority on what is legal and constitutional.

Going forward, Cuomo must impose restrictions on religious services – and all others – keyed to the size of the given institution, similar to the way indoor dining is regulated. If lives are lost, chalk it up to a bad interpretation of the Free Exercise Clause.

This editorial was first published in the New York Daily News.



Regional divergence and local taxes

In the century after the Civil War, the USA went through a long period of regional convergence. This simply means that as our standard of living grew, poorer places generally grew faster than richer places. This caused states and cities to “converge” towards one another at a time when our overall standard of

Michael Hicks



rich places have grown more quickly, while poor places grew more slowly.

Population flows exacerbate these trends. Rich places tend to attract more people, while poorer places shed them. This results in some stark geographic anomalies. For example, Columbus, Ohio has captured 130 percent of Ohio’s population growth in the 21st Century, while Indianapolis captured 120 percent of all Indiana’s job growth. In recent decades, nearly all large urban places thrived, while smaller cities and rural places mostly stagnated.

Unsurprisingly, decades of these patterns cause unease and even resentment among many residents. There are several good studies tying this divergence to growing political discontent.

Just last week, mayors of seven Midwestern cities called for a domestic Marshall Plan to invest in their cities. They invoked the memory of America’s large commitment to rebuilding Europe after World War II.

Their argument focused mostly on federal investment in clean energy technologies and urban infrastructure as a means for revitalizing cities. Unfortunately, the gist of this argument is that such investments would boost primarily factory and construction employment. While I think it is time to have a frank discussion about place-based economic policies, this particular argument has two fatal weaknesses.

First, the federal government heavily subsidizes poor places and people already. Federal tax dollars are disproportionately collected in affluent cities and distributed disproportionately to poor places.

While most of those tax dollars flow to individuals, not local governments, the notion that poor cities and rural areas are not getting their share of government spending is simply false. It is the other way around. Rich places receive far fewer tax dollars per person from federal taxes than do poor places. Moreover, within states, rich counties subsidize poor counties through state tax systems.

Again, it would be wise to review the spending priorities to poor places. But, taxpayers in rich cities also tax themselves more heavily than do smaller cities and rural places. To ask them to fork over even more money to places unwilling to raise their own revenues seems to me like a political dead end.

The second, bigger problem confronting the idea of a domestic Marshall Plan is that what ails cities and rural places has almost nothing to do with private sector capital investment. The problem is more fundamental. Declining cities and struggling rural places almost always have two overwhelming problems: Their educational attainment is too low to attract the types of jobs that will grow in the 21st Century, and the quality of their public services is too low to attract new households.

This is a tough thing for most people to hear about their community, yet it is inevitably true. As an exercise, I have my undergraduate students build a predictive algorithm of a county’s population growth using only educational attainment. They can do so with about 90 percent accuracy, and that gets at the heart of why the nation is experiencing regional divergence.

Educational attainment is the strongest causal factor in regional economic growth. A century ago, workers enjoyed a wage premium by moving to a city with good transportation networks and a cheap energy source. Those factors dictated the strength of cities. Today, educated workers enjoy a wage premium by working closely with other educated workers. In the 21st Century economy, education and skills have replaced electricity, railroads and canals as the prime contributors of city growth.

There is a small chance that federal place-based economic policies can help smaller cities and rural places do better, but it is no more than a small chance. Federal spend-

ing might improve roads or sewage systems, extend broadband or help subsidize more reliable electricity. All of these are helpful, but they aren’t the keys to revitalizing a Rust Belt city or aging factory town.

The real policy challenges remain at the state and local level. The federal government isn’t going to address the fundamental weaknesses that keep some places poor while other thrive. Moreover, most people wouldn’t want them to. The building blocks to better educational attainment happen in school board meetings and in statehouse votes, not in Congress. Places that do well recognize this, and places that do not will continue to lose population and relevance. That leads me to my final point.

Recall that more affluent cities typically tax themselves more heavily than other places. There’s a reason for this, and it reinforces the divergence between rich and poor places. Over time, household preferences change, and in recent decades school quality and neighborhood amenities have become more attractive. These attributes seem especially attractive to mobile households with educated workers and children. In short, the type of families that communities wish to attract. They also cost money.

The implication is that places that tax themselves more heavily to provide better schools and neighborhoods will capture most of the population growth. These are state and municipal governments who seek to compete for people on the basis of value. In contrast, many state and municipal governments focus more heavily on lower tax rates. These communities compete on price, not value. There may have been a time when being a low-price community was a successful strategy, but that time has long since passed. The economic forces that led to that change show no signs of abating, and successful cities have already figured that out.

Michael J. Hicks, PhD, is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University. Hicks earned doctoral and master’s degrees in economics from the University of Tennessee. He has authored two books and more than 60 scholarly works focusing on state and local public policy, including tax and expenditure policy and the impact of Wal-Mart on local economies.

What next for Trump’s legal team?

The Trump campaign’s top lawyers – Jenna Ellis, Rudy Giuliani, Sidney Powell – went into last weekend on the offensive. On Thursday, they held a news conference vowing to prove the existence of a far-ranging conspiracy to defeat the president. They were pressing a case alleging unfair voting practices in Pennsylvania. They were predicting victory.

Byron York



By Sunday night, everything had changed.

A judge threw out the Pennsylvania case. Then, amid widespread skepticism, Powell, the author of a theory that voting machines had changed millions of Trump votes into Biden votes, was booted from the team, leaving an uncertain future.

First, Pennsylvania. No one should be surprised that Trump lost. The suit was against the Pennsylvania secretary of state, Kathy Boockvar, and seven individual counties. It relied on two plaintiffs – two Pennsylvania men who said their mail-in ballots had been canceled for technical reasons, and they were not given a chance to correct them.

The judge agreed that the two men had suffered what is called an “injury in fact” – that is, their votes had not counted. But the problem was, neither man lived in any of the seven counties the Trump campaign named as defendants in the case. So none of the defendant counties had anything to do with the ballots in question. In addition, the suit did not tie the plaintiffs’ situation to Boockvar. So none of the defendants had anything to do with the plaintiffs’ complaints.

Nevertheless, the Trump campaign had sought to stop certification of Pennsylvania’s results, set for Tuesday of this week. Roughly 6.9 million people voted in the state, with Joe Biden winning by 81,000 votes. There was no way the judge was going to do that, based on two voters in a case in which the Trump campaign didn’t even sue the right counties. So on Saturday night, the judge threw it out. The Trump campaign will appeal.

But that wasn’t the worst of it. On Thursday, Powell had alleged that there was an international conspiracy, fueled by “the massive influence of Communist money through Venezuela, Cuba and likely China,” to overturn a Trump victory in the election. She alleged that the Dominion voting system and Smartmatic software, originally developed for Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez, had flipped hundreds of thousands or even millions of votes for Donald Trump to Joe Biden. She said that she would prove Trump “won by a landslide.”

When journalists, notably Fox News’ Tucker Carlson, asked Powell to provide some evidence to back up her charge, she refused. That led to a weird divide among some Trump supporters. Journalists questioned Powell’s case, while some supporters attacked the journalists, saying Powell had the evidence but had no obligation to reveal it to the public. It would all come out in court, they said.

Then Powell went even further. On Friday night, she appeared on Newsmax, where she alleged that the Republican governor of Georgia, Brian Kemp, and the Republican secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, were “in on the Dominion scam.” She said Kemp and Raffensperger had accepted payoffs as part of the conspiracy.

Powell finally went too far. She was accusing Georgia’s top officials of bribery, but would not offer any evidence other than she had “been told” there was evidence. Within 24 hours, the Trump legal team sent out this brief press release: “Sidney Powell is practicing law on her own. She is not a member of the Trump legal team. She is also not a lawyer for the president in his personal capacity.”

Powell was out, although she can certainly continue to act on her own, as another pro-Trump lawyer, Georgia’s Lin Wood, is doing. But where that leaves her theory and vow to “blow up” Georgia is unclear.


Speaking of Georgia, Powell’s antics on behalf of the president’s team threatened to roil and divide Republicans in the state that is vitally important to the GOP right now. Georgia means everything. Its two Senate runoff races on Jan. 5 will determine who will control the Senate in the first two years of the Biden presidency. If Republicans control the Senate, they can stop Biden’s agenda cold and, in the process, preserve some of Trump’s legacy. If Democrats win the Senate, with their narrow control of the House, there are almost no limits on what they can do.

So it was politically ill-advised – some would say crazy – to seek to “blow up” Georgia. The goal for Republicans is to win Georgia. They will not do that by accusing the state’s Republican governor, who is a strong supporter of the president, of corruption. They will not do that by alleging that hundreds of thousands of Georgians had their votes secretly changed by software from Hugo Chavez’s Venezuela. Instead, they will win Georgia by campaigning there and by supporting the two Republican senators, David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, who are running. It appears the White House might have finally figured that out.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

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Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

Market hours will be the same as the regular museum hours, which are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

MARKET

From page A1

we thought we needed to have extra help,” said Rager. Rager said Tuesday was local basket-maker Peg Herendeen’s day to volunteer. “She’s helping us monitor the stations and helping with sales and stuff like that,” said Rager. “The idea wasn’t for us to incur a lot of expense doing this, it was more of an outreach to people in the community. And it’s also a great chance to visit with some of our artists because Peg is part of our regular gift shop, so this is an opportunity for her to expand what she’s showing.” Herendeen showed off her booth, which included several intricately designed woven baskets. She said it depended on the style of basket how long each would take, which could mean anywhere from seven to 10 hours of work. “Every one of those turns out different because of the antler,” she said, pointing to a basket woven around part

of a deer antler. “That’s a good seller, especially for weddings,” she said of a basket which was designed to hold a bottle of wine and two glasses. “Nativities always good sellers,” she said, pointing to the manger. Herendeen said she had been making and selling baskets at various locations for around 30 years. “As I’ve gotten older I don’t do as much,” she said. Herendeen said she “tried” to teach Rager how to do this many years ago. “She rued the day,” said Rager, laughing. Rager said booths are spaced throughout our main floor “giving plenty of area for social distancing.” Masks are required while in the museum. Market hours will be the same as the regular museum hours, which are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. *Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainealer.com.*

ELECTION

From page A1

President Donald Trump nationally, Gov. Eric Holcomb said during a televised press conference Nov. 18 that he was “very confident in our election in the state of Indiana.” “I was going into it. I am going out of it. I have faith in our system. It’s worked for over 240 years for our nation,” he said. “This isn’t a partisan statement, obviously, but I am really proud of the work from Secretary Lawson to every county clerk to every volunteer that allowed us to pull off a safe and secure election. I salute them all.” Draper said looking ahead

to future elections was the task before their office now. Draper said the state is not moving to paper ballots in the future but will provide a verification receipt. “You can see how you voted but cannot take the receipt with you,” said Draper. Draper said this change is mandated by the state for 2029. “We will probably test this equipment before that date but a time has been set yet,” said Draper. “Next year is not an election year so we will analyze what worked this year and what didn’t and decide if we need to make any changes for 2022.” *Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainealer.com.*

PULSE

From page A1

Dec. 7, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21. Giveaway amounts range from \$20 to \$100. Downtown Bucks are available for purchase online and in-person at Visit Wabash County, 221 S. Miami St. The Downtown Bucks are valid at any business in downtown Wabash. They come in increments of \$10 and are valid until March 31, 2021. For more information, visit www.wabashmarketplace.org or call 260-563-0975.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distribution every other Wednesday

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. Distribution is while supplies last. All are welcome, regardless of home county or reason for need. No IDs, proof of address or income will be required. If you are walking up or coming via a vehicle too small to carry a load of food, please plan to

arrive an hour after the tailgate starts. For more information, visit <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Wabash Rotary Club announces ‘No Outing Golf Outing’

Wabash Rotary Club has continued its long tradition of supporting the Wabash County United Fund campaign. And although this year’s golf outing was canceled, Wabash Rotary will still be supporting Wabash County United Fund (WCUF). Community members can participate in one of two ways. They may donate any amount to the Wabash Rotary Club or they can sponsor one of three levels toward the “No Outing Golf Outing.” All donations or sponsorships may be payable to the Wabash Rotary Club by mail at P.O. Box 159, Wabash, IN 46992. For more information, call Dr. Chris Kuhn at 260-563-8050 (option 7) or email at kuhnc@msdwc.k12.in.us; call Steve Johnson at 260-563-6726 or email at johnson@wcunitedfund.org.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplainealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Holy Communion for Biden? Issue divides bishops

While doing groundwork for the pivotal South Carolina primary, Democrat Joe Biden went to a local church to do what he does on Sundays – go to Mass. What happened next made headlines, raising an issue that looms over the president-elect’s personal and political lives. The priest at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Florence declined to give Biden communion. “Holy Communion signifies we are one with God, each other and the Church. Our actions should reflect that,” said Father Rev. Robert E. Morey, in a press statement. “Any public figure who advocates for abortion places himself or herself outside of Church teaching. As a priest, it is my responsibility to minister to those souls entrusted to my care.” The priest, a former attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency, ended by saying: “I will keep Mr. Biden in my prayers.” Biden told MSNBC: “That’s just my personal life, and I am not going to get into that at all.” Nevertheless, Biden continued to make his faith – he is a “devout” Catholic in news reports – a key element of the campaign, as he has throughout his career. He also pledged to defend Roe v. Wade, to the point of codifying the decision into national law. Catholic conservatives and liberals remain divided on how the church should respond, a tension demonstrated in a carefully worded statement by Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “The president-elect has given us reason to believe that his faith commitments will move him to support some good policies. This includes policies of immigration reform, refugees and the poor, and against racism, the death penalty and climate change,” said Gomez, after the recent online USCCB meeting. However, it is obvious that Biden’s actions have clashed with “fundamental values that we hold dear as Catholics,” the archbishop added. This includes supporting the federal funding of abortions, the return of the Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate and passage of the Equality Act, a sweeping LGBTQ rights bill that could lead to “unequal treatment of Catholic schools,” said Gomez. “We have long opposed these policies strongly. ... When politicians who profess the Catholic faith support them, there are additional problems. Among other things, it creates confusion among the faithful about what the Church actually teaches on these questions.” Meanwhile, Pope Francis called to congratulate the president-elect. What happens when Biden reaches the White House? That’s a doctrinal, as well as political, question. The debate centers, in part, on a Catholic Catechism statement: “Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense.” “Grave” is a crucial term, since Catholic Canon Law states that those who are “obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion.” The current standoff has lingered since 2004, when Democrats nominated Sen. John Kerry, a Catholic liberal, for president. A committee of American bishops petitioned the Vatican for

Terry Mattingly



advice on the communion issue. The committee’s leader was Theodore McCarrick, the archbishop of Washington, D.C. The ex-cardinal has since fallen into disgrace in a sex-abuse scandal involving teenaged boys and seminarians. Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger sent McCarrick a letter that was, at first, private. In it, the man who is now Pope Benedict XVI argued that if prominent supporters of abortion continue to present themselves for communion – against the advice of their local bishops – the “minister of Holy Communion must refuse to distribute it.” McCarrick claimed – without releasing the text – that this letter endorsed compromise. McCarrick also said he believed it would be wrong to “turn the Eucharist into a perceived source of political combat.” Later, a public Ratzinger letter to the USCCB did appear to support a compromise approach. Thus, McCarrick’s gambit created a bitter standoff that continues to this day, with bishops on both sides quoting different letters by the now-retired pope. The current Catholic leader in Washington, D.C., is Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who on Nov. 28th will become the first African American cardinal. He told Catholic News Service that Biden received communion during his years as vice president, and that “I’m not going to veer from that.” Gregory pledged to maintain a dialogue in which “we can discover areas where we can cooperate that reflect the social teachings of the church, knowing full well that there are some areas where we won’t agree.” *Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tenn. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.*

DEATHS

From page A1

on what the positivity rate for Wabash and Wabash County is at that point.” “It is imperative everyone protect themselves by following the CDC Guidelines, and please by all means mask up when you have to go out into public,” said Long. Last week, Wabash Friends Church, 3563 S. Indiana 13, opened a portion of their facility for a free ISDH COVID-19 testing site, on the north side of the building. Signs are in place directing those wishing to be tested which way to enter. The testing will be offered from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday, Dec. 5. Otherwise, the ISDH only lists one testing site available in Wabash County, which is the Parkview FirstCare Walk-In Clinic, 1655 Cass St., Wabash. An appointment is required and it is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Patients must be symptomatic to be tested. Insurance copay, credit card and cash are accepted for payment. For more information, call 877-774-8632.

School figures

The ISDH’s latest school dashboard results are as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27 and were updated Monday, Nov. 30. The dashboard is updated weekly at midnight Mondays. Statewide, 205 schools reported no cases, 1,775 reported one or more case and 386 have not reported. In Wabash County, only Saint Bernard Elementary School and White’s Jr./Sr. High School have reported to the ISDH that they have no cases. During the latest update, Wabash County schools with one or more confirmed cases included: ■ Manchester Jr./Sr. High School (MHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, fewer than five new teacher positive cases, 23 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases. ■ Manchester Elementary School (MES) reported fewer than five each new student positive cases, total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases. ■ Metro North Elementary School reported fewer than five each new student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases. ■ Sharp Creek Elementary School reported fewer than five each new student positive cases, total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases. ■ Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported nine new student positive cases, fewer than five new teacher positive cases, fewer than five new staff positive cases, 25 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and six total staff positive cases. ■ O.J. Neighbours Elementary School reported fewer than five each new student positive cases, new teacher positive cases, total student positive cases and total teacher positive cases. ■ Wabash Middle School reported seven total student positive cases. ■ Wabash High School (WHS) reported seven total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases. ■ Southwood Jr./Sr. High School (SHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, six total student positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases. ■ Southwood Elementary School reported fewer than five each new student positive cases, total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases. On the Manchester Community Schools’ (MCS) own dashboard the information is updated once contact tracing is complete and all close contacts have been notified. MCS defines close contact is when an individual is within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of someone with confirmed COVID-19. “The Wabash County Health Department determined close contacts in conjunction with school personnel and advised us who to quarantine,” stated MCS. The individually reported MCS cases include: ■ Sept. 28: One case each at MES and MHS, with five people quarantined. ■ Oct. 10: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined. ■ Oct. 14: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined. ■ Oct. 15: One case at MES, with five people quarantined. And one case at MHS, with two people quarantined. ■ Oct. 16: One case at MHS, with 34 people quarantined. ■ Oct. 20: One case at MHS, with no additional people quarantined. ■ Oct. 21: One case at

MIS, with one person quarantined. ■ Oct. 28: One case at MHS, with no additional people quarantined. ■ Nov. 2: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined. ■ Nov. 3: Two cases at MHS, with two people quarantined. ■ Nov. 4: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined. ■ Nov. 4: One case at MIS with one person quarantined. ■ Nov. 5: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined. ■ Nov. 6: One case at MES, and one case at MHS, with two people quarantined. ■ Nov. 8: One case at MCS Transportation, with one person quarantined. ■ Nov. 9: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined. ■ Nov. 10: Three cases at MHS, with three people quarantined; and one case at MES, with one person quarantined. ■ Nov. 13: One case at MHS, with three people quarantined. ■ Nov. 14: One case at MHS, with three people quarantined. ■ Nov. 16: Two cases at MHS, with seven people quarantined; one case at MCS Transportation including all schools in the district, with 25 people quarantined; and one case at MHS, with five people quarantined. ■ Nov. 17: One case at MES, with 22 people quarantined; and one case at MCS Transportation, with four people quarantined. ■ Nov. 19: One case at MHS, with six people quarantined; and one case at MCS Transportation, with one person quarantined. ■ Nov. 20: Two cases at MHS, with 15 people quarantined. ■ Nov. 22: One case at MES, with 11 people quarantined. ■ Nov. 23: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined. ■ Nov. 24: Four cases at MHS, with 24 people quarantined. ■ Nov. 25: One case at MHS, with four people quarantined. ■ Nov. 29: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined. ■ Nov. 30: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

Local figures

On Saturday, the ISDH reported 26 new local positive cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 1,752 cases, with 9,900 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 16.2 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for

unique individuals was 29.3 percent. On Sunday, the ISDH reported 59 new local positive cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 1,811 cases, with 10,066 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 17.4 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 31.6 percent. On Monday, the ISDH reported 29 new local positive cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 1,839 cases, with 10,109 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 17.5 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 32.9 percent. On Tuesday, the ISDH reported 36 new local positive cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 1,875 cases, with 10,173 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 16.6 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 32.9 percent.

Statewide figures

On Tuesday, the ISDH announced that 5,518 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 344,373 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard. A total of 5,598 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 142 from the previous day. Another 266 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record. Deaths are reported based on when data are received by the state and occurred over multiple days. To date, 2,217,258 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 2,204,581 on Monday. A total of 4,295,987 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26. Besides the Wabash site, the ISDH will also offer free testing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday at the following locations: ■ Lake County Fairgrounds, 889 S. Court St., Crown Point. ■ Rensselaer Fire Station, 1060 W. Clark St. Rensselaer. ■ Sullivan County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1301 E. County Road 75 North, Sullivan. To find other testing sites around the state, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

2020-2021 All-Three Rivers Conference Football Team named

Final team standings for the season also released

STAFF REPORT

On Nov. 16, the athletic directors of high schools in the Three Rivers Conference (TRC) named the 2020-21 All TRC Football Team.

These athletic directors included Casey Stouffer, of Maconaquah; Eric Screeton, of Manchester; Josh Mohr, of Northfield; Chuck Brimbury, of Peru; Ryan Johnson, of Rochester; Tom Finicle of Southwood; Aaron Butcher of Tippecanoe Valley; Floyd McWhirt of Wabash; and Julius Mays of Whitko.

“We are excited to honor the following students for their hard work and dedication to making the Three Rivers Conference better,” they said.

2020-21 Football All Three Rivers Conference Teams

(Editor’s note: All player entries are organized by name, position, grade and school.)

All TRC Offense

- Joseph Leland, QB, 12, Wabash
- Alex Farr, QB, 12, Southwood
- Carter Little, RB, 12, Maconaquah
- Darian Hanley, RB, 12, North Miami
- Jamasyn Virgil, RB, 11, Tippecanoe Valley
- Cade Berg, RB, 11, Whitko
- Logan Barley, WR, 12, Southwood
- Seth Gaerte, WR, 11, Manchester

- Carson Rich, WR, 12, Southwood
- Rex Kirchenstien, WR, 11, Tippecanoe Valley
- Bryant Boggs, WR, 12, Wabash
- Isaiah Kyles, WR, 11, Whitko
- Wade Melanson, OL, 11, Tippecanoe Valley
- Cash Carmichael, OL, 12, Wabash
- Logan Cox, OL, 12, Northfield
- Jacob Caudill, OL, 12, Manchester
- Memphis Hiner, OL, 12, Southwood
- Marshall Fishback, OL, 11, Rochester
- Colin Deckard, OL, 12, Maconaquah
- Levi Strong, OL, 11, Peru

All TRC Defense

- Micah Higgins, DL, 12, Northfield
- Dawson Filip, DL, 12, Southwood
- DJ Estep, DL, 11, Tippecanoe Valley
- Chad Wyatt, Jr., DL, 11, Wabash
- Draven Waters, DL, 12, Peru
- Kaiden Pence, DL, 12, Manchester
- Johnny Gonsalez, LB, 12, Tippecanoe Valley
- Noah Swango, LB, 12, Rochester
- Conner Rich, LB, 12, Southwood
- Jacob Snyder, LB, 11, Northfield
- Sam Makowski, LB, 12, Peru
- Peyton Addair, LB, 12, Manchester
- Isaiah Eis, LB, 12, Wabash
- Nolan Kelly, DB, 12, Maconaquah
- Alex Hauptert, DB, 12, Northfield
- Elijah Sutton, DB, 12, Southwood
- Dylan Stroud, DB, 11, Manchester
- Dakota Scarlett, DB, 12, Peru
- Clayton Tomlinson, OL, 12, Northfield
- Zachary Johnson, K, 12, Peru

Honorable Mentions

- Richie Leary, 12, Maconaquah
- Jared Blake, 12, Maconaquah
- Braxton Ream, 11, Manchester
- Johnny England, 12, Manchester
- Jarret Shafer, 12, Northfield
- Ethan Galbraith, 12, Northfield
- Lincoln Wildermuth, 12, North Miami
- Seth Ireland, 11, North Miami
- Jack Buckley, 12, Peru
- Brayden Masters, 11, Peru
- Alex Deming, 9, Rochester
- Brady Beck, 9, Rochester
- Jason Oprisek, 10, Southwood
- Tristin Hayslett, 12, Southwood
- Branson McBrier, 11, Tippecanoe Valley
- Hunter Eherenman, 11, Tippecanoe Valley
- Keegan O’Neill, 12, Wabash
- Antonio Grant, 10, Wabash
- Drake Lewis, 12, Whitko
- Braxton Coburn, 12, Whitko

Three Rivers Conference Final Standings

(Editor’s note: All team entries are organized by win-loss record, points and opponent votes.)

- Southwood, 7-0, 272, 46
- Peru, 6-2, 225, 118
- Tippecanoe Valley, 6-2, 283, 122
- Northfield, 6-2, 301, 109
- Maconaquah, 4-3, 194, 176
- Wabash, 4-3, 194, 184
- Whitko, 3-5, 198, 257
- Manchester, 2-6, 194, 290
- Rochester, 0-7, 56, 277
- North Miami, 0-8, 92, 430

Indiana falls to No. 17 Texas in Maui semis

By AARON BEARD
AP Basketball Writer

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Matt Coleman III scored 16 points to help No. 17 Texas beat Indiana 66-44 in Tuesday’s semifinals of the relocated Maui Invitational, reaching the tournament’s championship game for the first time.

Courtney Ramey added 13 points for the Longhorns (3-0), who locked down to force a rough offensive performance for the Hoosiers.

Indiana shot just 24 percent and finished with more turnovers (14) than field goals (11). Its struggles included four stints of roughly five minutes or longer between baskets, including one of nearly eight minutes that ended just before halftime.

It was a far better result for Texas at the defensive end than in their tough first-round win against Davidson. The Longhorns didn’t have the same offensive balance, though, with only Coleman, Ramey and Andrew Jones (12 points)

hitting double figures after six Texas players did so the previous afternoon.

Trayce Jackson-Davis scored 17 points to lead Indiana (2-1), which made 20 of 29 free throws in what amounted to its most reliable source of scoring, with little else falling.

Indiana trailed 31-19 at the break and got no closer than 10 after the opening minute of the second half. The deficit ballooned past 20 points by midway through the second half on a frustrating afternoon, which included fourth-year coach Archie Miller getting whistled for a technical foul with 10:38 left.

The tournament is being played in the North Carolina mountains instead of its traditional Hawaii setting due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Big picture

Texas: The Longhorns advanced past Davidson in the first round on Ramey’s go-ahead drive with 20 seconds left, followed by two missed 3-pointers by Davidson for the win. The Longhorns

didn’t have any such drama this time, scoring the first six points and never trailing while holding the Hoosiers to just five first-half field goals – a welcome sign after coach Shaka Smart talked about the need to see defensive improvement from Monday. The Longhorns advanced to Wednesday’s championship game to face the North Carolina-Stanford winner.

Indiana: The Hoosiers overwhelmed Providence in the first round. That included getting a huge day from Race Thompson up front, with the 6-foot-8 forward posting 22 points and 13 rebounds for his first career double-double. But Thompson and the Hoosiers sputtered from the start in this one, missing 13 of 15 shots, then managing just one field goal for the final 8 1/2 minutes before halftime to dig themselves into a hole they would not erase. And Thompson finished with four points on 1-for-5 shooting. The Hoosiers will face the North Carolina-Stanford loser in Wednesday’s third-place game.

Inconsistent play becomes Colts’s key problem

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts coach Frank Reich routinely warns players against riding the emotional waves.

His philosophy really has been put to the test this year.

Whether it’s been COVID-19 curveballs; an early rash of debilitating injuries; the struggle to get players in sync because of a truncated offseason; or Monday’s announcement that punter Rigoberto Sanchez is about to have surgery to remove a cancerous tumor, it’s been tough.

Now, with five games remaining, the Colts need to focus on playing with more consistency.

“One thing we talked about in the locker room was when we play our style of football, when we play the way we know we can play, we’ve proven that we can stop anybody,” Reich said after Sunday’s 45-26 thrashing that gave Tennessee sole possession of the AFC South lead. “But just doing it for 30 minutes is not good enough. We have to do it for 60 minutes.”

The Colts (7-4) simply have not excelled at being themselves.

Reich makes no secret of his desire to run first, a smart strategy given that he has one of the league’s top offensive lines. But Indy ranks 22nd in yards rushing after finishing seventh last season, and its tied for 30th in yards per carry (3.7).

Statistically, the Colts’ defense has been one of the league’s best most of this season though lately it has only been at its best about half the time.

Three weeks ago, against Baltimore, it completely shut down reigning MVP Lamar Jackson – for a half. Then the Ravens played keep away and rallied for a 24-10 victory.

In Week 11, it was the reverse. After

the Packers took a 28-14 halftime lead, the Colts’ staunch defense returned and nearly pitched a second-half shutout as Indy rallied for a 34-31 overtime win that appeared to affirm its status as a solid playoff team.

But it happened again Sunday when Derrick Henry ran for 140 yards and three TDs to stake Tennessee to a 35-14 halftime lead. Indy never recovered and it’s left players and coaches frustrated.

“It seems like defensively we’re coming out, we wait until we get hit in the mouth to start playing,” Pro Bowl linebacker Darius Leonard said. “We can’t do that. If we want to be a good team, we can’t do that, and against a good team you definitely can’t do that.”

And time is quickly running out for a team that has missed the playoffs four of the last five years. They need a solution, and fast.

“We have to throw the first punch and we understand that,” linebacker Anthony Walker said. “If we don’t throw the first punch and we get hit in our mouth, and that continuously happens, then it needs to get corrected. That’s something we need to fix.”

What’s working

QB Philip Rivers. The 38-year-old quarterback is playing well. He’s completing 67.3 percent of his throws, the third-highest percentage of his career. And in the last six games, he’s thrown 12 TD passes, four interceptions and flirted with or topped the 300-yard mark four times.

What needs help

The improvised run defense. How much difference can one player make? If it’s DeForest Buckner, a lot. With the Pro Bowl defensive tackle, the Colts fared well against the league’s top runners. In their first game without him, Indy gave up 229 yards and four TDs on the ground.

Stock up

WR T.Y. Hilton. Just when it seemed the four-time Pro Bowler was becoming an afterthought, he re-emerged Sunday with four catches for 81 yards and his first TD of the season. It could be the start of a big finish.

Stock down

TE Jack Doyle. The two-time Pro Bowler looked like he might be headed toward another big season in training camp – then Trey Burton made it back onto the field. Rivers threw only one pass in Doyle’s direction Sunday and it was incomplete.

Injured

Sanchez delivered the news Monday on his Instagram post. Reich said the Colts are optimistic about Sanchez’s recovery and return to football, though he didn’t have a timetable. Reich said longtime left tackle Anthony Costanzo has a sprained medial collateral ligament in his knee and safety Khari Willis (back and quad) and running back Jordan Wilkins also are banged up. He wouldn’t say if any of them would play this week. Reich also wouldn’t say whether Buckner or DE Denico Autry would return from the reserve/COVID-19 list this week. He did say RB Jonathan Taylor was put on the list because he was considered a “close contact,” making him eligible to return later this week.

Key number

6.6 – It wasn’t just Henry’s numbers – 27 carries, 178 yards and three TDs – that were problematic. His style was, too. He ran through and around defenders for 6.6 yards per carry.

Next steps

With four losses, the Colts can’t afford many more if they want to make the playoffs. It makes a win next weekend at Houston essential.

SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	East			Pct	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
Buffalo	8	3	0	.727	299	282
Miami	7	4	0	.636	284	205
New England	5	6	0	.455	229	255
N.Y. Jets	0	11	0	.000	152	322

	South			Pct	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
Tennessee	8	3	0	.727	324	285
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	302	253
Houston	4	7	0	.364	268	297
Jacksonville	1	10	0	.091	227	325

	North			Pct	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
Pittsburgh	10	0	0	1.000	298	174
Cleveland	8	3	0	.727	265	286
Baltimore	6	4	0	.600	268	195
Cincinnati	2	8	1	.227	230	289

	West			Pct	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
Kansas City	10	1	0	.909	348	238
Las Vegas	6	5	0	.545	292	319
Denver	4	7	0	.364	209	298
L.A. Chargers	3	8	0	.273	277	300

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	East			Pct	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
N.Y. Giants	4	7	0	.364	214	253
Washington	4	7	0	.364	241	243
Phila.	3	7	1	.318	237	277
Dallas	3	8	0	.273	251	359

	South			Pct	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
New Orleans	9	2	0	.818	326	225
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	344	280
Atlanta	4	7	0	.364	295	281
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	280	300

	North			Pct	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	349	283
Chicago	5	6	0	.455	216	250
Minnesota	5	6	0	.455	292	305
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	252	328

West

				Pct	PF	PA
	W	L	T			
Seattle	8	3	0	.727	341	304
L.A. Rams	7	4	0	.636	263	215
Arizona	6	5	0	.545	304	258
San Francisco	5	6	0	.455	261	254

Thursday’s Games

Houston 41, Detroit 25
Washington 41, Dallas 16

Sunday’s Games

Atlanta 43, Las Vegas 6
Buffalo 27, L.A. Chargers 17
Cleveland 27, Jacksonville 25
Miami 20, N.Y. Jets 3
Minnesota 28, Carolina 27
N.Y. Giants 19, Cincinnati 17
New England 20, Arizona 17
Tennessee 45, Indianapolis 26
New Orleans 31, Denver 3
San Francisco 23, L.A. Rams 20
Kansas City 27, Tampa Bay 24
Green Bay 41, Chicago 25

Monday’s Game

Seattle 23, Phila. 17

Wednesday’s Game

Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 3:40 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 6

Cincinnati at Miami, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Las Vegas at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
New England at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m.
Phila. at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Carolina, Tampa Bay

Monday, Dec. 7

Washington at Pittsburgh, 5 p.m.
Buffalo at San Francisco, 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Dallas at Baltimore, 8:05 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 28, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Alabama (62)	8-0	1550	1
2. Notre Dame	9-0	1481	2
3. Ohio St.	4-0	1403	3
4. Clemson	8-1	1392	4
5. Texas A&M	6-1	1262	5
6. Florida	7-1	1226	6
7. Cincinnati	8-0	1204	7
8. BYU	9-0	1113	8
9. Miami	7-1	991	10
10. Indiana	5-1	984	12
11. Georgia	6-2	919	13
12. Iowa St.	7-2	873	15
13. Oklahoma	6-2	815	14
14. Coastal Carolina	9-0	694	16
15. Marshall	7-0	600	17
16. Northwestern	5-1	577	11
17. Southern Cal	3-0	540	19
18. Wisconsin	2-1	531	18
19. Oklahoma St.	6-2	426	21
20. Louisiana-Lafayette	8-1	352	23
21. Oregon	3-1	326	9
22. Tulsa	5-1	244	24
23. Washington	3-0	218	-
24. Iowa	4-2	119	-
25. Liberty	9-1	67	-

Others receiving votes: North Carolina 65, Buffalo 56, Texas 39, Auburn 25, Colorado 21, NC State 11, Boise St. 8, San Jose St. 8, SMU 8, Oregon St. 1, UCF 1.

Conference Standings

Atlantic Coast Conference

	Conference			All Games	All Games		
	W	L	T		PF	PA	
Notre Dame	8	0	280	150	9	0	332 150
Clemson	7	1	366	173	8	1	415 173
Miami	6	1	235	184	7	1	266 198
NC State	6	3	304	300	7	3	319 314
North Carolina	6	3	362	277	6	3	362 277
Boston College	5	4	250	248	6	4	274 269
Wake Forest	3	3	209	194	4	3	275 208
Virginia Tech	4	4	264	255	4	5	299 293
Pittsburgh	4	5	230	255	5	5	285 250
Virginia	3	4	194	216	4	4	249 231
Georgia Tech	3	4	185	262	3	5	206 311
Louisville	2	7	245	251	3	7	280 272
Florida St.	1	6	135	265	2	6	176 289
Duke	1	7	185	296	2	7	238 315
Syracuse	1	8	154	277	1	9	175 315

Big Ten Conference

East

	W	L	PF	PA
Ohio St.	4	0	181	104